



June 2014

## President's Message—By Walt Anseth



Greetings from the Big Sky Country to the members and friends of the National Association of Rural Rehab Corporations. I hope this note finds all members and their families enjoying the summer months. Our great organization's 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting will be held September 13-17, in Savannah, Georgia.

Thomas Carter and the Georgia Development Authority have been busy planning a great slate of speakers and activities for our

group. The lineup of speakers will prove to be very informational to the attendees. The tours that Thomas and his crew have arranged for our meeting will give members and guests a chance to see some of the historical areas in and around Savannah. Be sure to bring your walking shoes for your free time along Savannah's river walk.

The annual meeting is a wonderful opportunity to network with the other state organizations. In addition to the learning experience, it's a time to renew old friendships and make new ones.

A special thank you to the Board of Directors for their continued service to our organization. They are a very dedicated and enjoyable group to work with. Our organization's continued prosperity is a result of all the past, present, and future board members.

I look forward to seeing each of you in Savannah at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in September.

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**COME ON, Y'ALL! WE'RE FIXIN' TO HAVE A GOOD TIME!** *From Thomas Carter and the GDA*

NARRC MEMBERS: The Georgia Development Authority (GDA) is looking forward to introducing you to the belle of the South! Savannah is Georgia's oldest city, so there are plenty

of historical sites to feast your eyes on. The Hyatt Regency Savannah will be the site of the conference, and it offers fabulous views of River Street. There are many restaurants, shops, pubs and museums within walking distance of the hotel. The Victorian District is one of the nation's largest collections of architecture of that time, and the Hyatt happens to be located right in the heart of it. We can hardly wait for you to see the cobblestone streets, manicured gardens and the Spanish moss waving a welcome from beautiful aged oaks.

We hope you will be able to join us for the Optional Pre-conference Delegate and Guest Tour on Saturday. The "Highlights Tour" will showcase the Tybee Island Lighthouse as well as lunch and a guided tour of the Railroad Roundhouse Museum. This optional tour will also include touring the Historic District.

If a guest will be joining you, let them know they are in for a real treat! Monday's guest excursion will be the Paula Deen Tour which will feature shopping at some of Paula's favorite places, lunch at The Lady & Sons, and a final stop at Leopold's Ice Cream Shop. Tuesday will be fun and educational as delegates and guests tour the Georgia Ports Authority, have lunch at the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force, and end with the JCB Tractor Tour. Don't forget to bring your camera! Savannah is ripe with photo opportunities!

As you can see, we intend to keep you busy! All tours will be held rain or shine, so it might be a good idea to have an umbrella. We will be doing plenty of walking on the tours and you'll probably like to do some exploring on your own, so comfortable shoes are a must! While you pack, keep in mind the average high/low for September is 83/67. When you factor in Georgia's humidity it could feel considerably warmer. As a matter of fact, we want your visit with us to be relaxing, so plan to dress casual for touring and meeting.

While you're here, keep in mind you are in the Heart of the South! We like our tea sweet, our grits creamy and our hearts blessed. There is no doubt you'll have a great time reconnecting with old friends and making new ones in this charming city. We are tickled pink to be able to welcome you to Savannah, Georgia!

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## Report of 2014 Mid-Year Planning Meeting—Savannah, GA—By Vernon Eagan

**Call to Order:** The Mid-Year Planning Meeting of the 2013-2014 Board of Directors was called to order by President Walt Anseth on Monday, March 31, at 8:50 a.m., in the Scarborough Four Room, of the Hyatt Regency Hotel, in Savannah, Georgia. A quorum was established with all members in attendance. Also present were Thomas Carter and Donald Wilder (GA); Mike Hinton (D.C.), and Jeannie Eagan.

**Opening Remarks:** President Anseth welcomed everyone to Georgia and expressed appreciation to the board for their commitment to NARRC. He also thanked Thomas Carter and Donald Wilder, along with their GDA board and staff, for all their hard work in preparation to host the 2014 Annual Meeting. Appreciation was expressed to Mike Hinton for his active participation. Vice President Steve Gallagher gave the invocation.

**Minutes and Reports:** Upon motion by Gary/Stanley the Board approved the minutes—as read and previously distributed—of the Pre-Conference Board Meeting held August 11, 2013.

Upon motion by Stanley/Weers, the Board approved the minutes—as read and previously distributed—of the Post-Conference Board Meeting held August 14, 2013.

Minutes of the August 14, 2013, Annual Business Meeting were reviewed for accuracy—no changes were indicated.

A detailed report of the secretary's activities was given by Jeannie Eagan to keep the board fully informed of the secretary/treasurer activities.

The financial report was given by Secy/Treas Vernon Eagan. Upon motion by Berg/Rusk, the Board approved the report as presented and to be filed for audit.

The Website Committee reported President Anseth's appointment of Stan Garbacz (NE) as chairman, and Steve Ferguson (IA) as the third member of this committee. The website is kept current by Jeannie Eagan and website manager Jason Crider.

**2014 Annual Meeting:** Thomas Carter and Donald Wilder gave a detailed report of plans for the Annual Conference of NARRC on September 13-17, 2014, in Savannah, Georgia, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Lodging rates are \$157.00 for single/double; \$182.00 for triple; and \$207 for quadruple per night—plus applicable taxes and fees. Cut-off date for hotel reservations is August 21, 2014.

An optional tour is planned for Saturday, September 13, to Tybee Island Lighthouse—one of seven surviving colonial-era lighthouses; lunch at the Railroad Roundhouse Museum; and historic Savannah. The tour fee is \$125.00 per person and is in addition to the Conference registration fee. The cost will be \$140.00 after August 1.

Delegate registration fees will be \$375.00. Guest Registration fees will be \$225.00. After August 1st, registration fees will be \$430.00 and \$260.00 respectively.

Guest tour on Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, will include Paula Deen tour with lunch at the Lady & Sons and afternoon shopping at Paula's favorite places with a final stop at Leopold's Ice Cream Shop.

Delegate and guests tour on Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, will include the Georgia Port Authority, Lunch at the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force—of WW II fame, and the JCB Manufacturing Company—produces large equipment and over 300 products.

Thomas Carter will send a tentative agenda with associated costs to the secretary/treasurer for distribution to the states by April 15<sup>th</sup>. This document is for budgeting purposes. Speaker details are being worked out. The Georgia Ag Commissioner will be one of the speakers.

**2015 Annual Meeting:** Secy/Treas Eagan reported that Cynthia Garretson-Weibel and the Wyoming Business Council will host the 2015 Annual Meeting in Sheridan, Wyoming. The meeting will be scheduled for mid-September. Accommodation considerations are the Holiday Inn or Best Western.

**2016 Annual Meeting:** Secy/Treas Eagan advised that 2016 is open for a state desiring to host the NARRC Annual Meeting. They are actively communicating with two states who are considering hosting in 2016 and 2018.

**2017 Annual Meeting:** Director Rusk advised that the Colorado Rural Rehab Corporation is committed to hosting in 2017. A site will be selected soon and communicated to the board.

**Unfinished Business:** After discussing the merits of a panel to discuss NARRC concerns, the board's consensus is that we forego a panel this year, since that has been done quite regularly for the past several years.

Tony Minicozzi distributed a synopsis of the results of the 2013 NARRC Questionnaire to the board prior to the Mid-Year Planning Meeting. After reviewing the results,

**(Report of 2014 Mid-Year Planning Meeting cont'd)**

the board's consensus is that the need for the Questionnaire in 2014 does not appear to be necessary since the responses were much the same as the past several years—with the exception of the joint meeting.

Many comments by the delegates were favorable to combining the two groups (NARRC and NCOASFP) when feasible. However, the board agreed that it shall be the decision of the host state since the host state may not have sufficient staff to handle a joint meeting. The board expressed appreciation to Tony Minicozzi for his leadership in the Questionnaire effort.

USDA Liaison Mike Hinton advised he or a representative will give an update regarding FSA and Loan Guarantees. This presentation is scheduled for Wednesday morning prior to the business meeting.

**New Business:** President Anseth advised he will be making appointments soon to both the nominating and audit committees.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

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*Top Photo:* A view of the river walk with the Hyatt Regency in the upper right background. Many delicious dining choices are just steps outside our hotel. Dining menus include breakfast, lunch, and dinner as well as a variety of shopping options. Cars also drive along the trolley tracks. The trolley runs during various events throughout the year. Enjoy a leisurely stroll and rest a while to take in the view of the river scenery.

*Above Photo:* Mid-Year Planning Meeting Attendees—includes board members, hosts and guests. A wonderful dining experience at the **Chart House**, just a couple of blocks away from the hotel on the river walk. Left to right: Tate Rusk; Steve Weers; Terese Berg; Harold Gary; Vernon and Jeannie Eagan; Donald and Sherrie Wilder; Eleanor and J. Lee Alley; Jane and Thomas Carter; Marion Weers; Steve Gallagher; and Walt Anseth.

*Middle Photo:* Signage for the **Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum** of WWII fame. Lunch and a tour of this facility is scheduled for Tuesday.

*Note:* All photos are courtesy of **Marion Weers**, our official NARRC photographer.

## 2013-2014 NARRC OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### President

Walt Anseth, Ag Finance Officer  
Montana Dept of Agriculture  
P.O. Box 200201  
Helena, MT 59620  
PH: 406.444.2402  
Fax: 406.444.9442  
Email: wanseth@mt.gov

Terese Berg, Business Manager  
North Dakota Rural Rehab Corp  
P.O. Box 2485  
Bismarck, ND 58502  
PH: 701.223.5810, ext. 2  
Fax: 701.224.8061  
Email: ndrcc@midconetwork.com

### Vice President

Steve Gallagher, General Manager  
Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corp.  
248 East Dahlia Avenue  
Palmer, AK 99645  
PH: 907.745.3390  
Fax: 907.746.3555  
Email: steve@arrc.us

Harold Gary, MRRC Board  
1306 South Church Street  
Brookhaven, MS 39601  
Phone 601.362.7406 (MRRC Ofc)  
Fax: 601.981.4132 (MRRC Ofc)  
Email: johnpeggyt@msn.com

### Secretary/Treasurer

Vernon L. Eagan  
4408 Dawson Drive  
North Little Rock, AR 72116  
PH: 501.758.4723  
Fax: 501.375.8625  
Email: egnavlj@swbell.net

Tate Rusk, CRRC Board Member  
62895 Highway 69  
Westcliff, CO 81252  
PH: 303.283.6870 (CRRC Ofc)  
Fax: 303.752.5810 (CRRC Ofc)  
Email: rusktw@gmail.com

### Past President

Marion Weers, President  
Michigan Rural Rehab Corp  
P.O. Box 188  
Marshall, MI 49068-0188  
PH: 269.781.4646  
Fax: 269.781.9850  
Email: mweers@mrrccollegeloans.com

William Stanley, Pres/CEO, SCRRRC  
P.O. Box 81  
Ehrhardt, SC 29081  
PH: 803.254.0272 (SCRRRC Ofc)  
Fax: 803.765.2564 (SCRRRC Ofc)  
Email: CarolinaEast64@yahoo.com

### Directors

J. Lee Alley, ARRC Board Member  
8249 Mossy Oak Drive  
Montgomery, AL 36117  
Phone: 334.227.8950 (ARRC Ofc)  
Email: jalleyalley@knology.net

### USDA Liaison for Rural Rehab Funds:

Mike Hinton, Director  
USDA-FSA Loan Servicing Div  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Stop 0522  
Washington, DC 20250-0511  
PH: 202.720.1472  
Email: mike.hinton@wdc.usda.gov

### 2014 Nominating Committee:

Larry Mack (FL) Chair  
Penn Rogers (SC)  
Tate Rusk (CO)

### 2014 Audit Committee:

Larry Karns (KS) Chair  
Lou Ciarkowski (MI)  
Sandra Tenorio (TX)

*News items for the next Rural Rehabilitation Reports due out in January, 2015, are requested from member states. Send articles for publishing that would be of interest to the membership to: Vernon Eagan, NARRC Secretary/Treasurer; 4408 Dawson Drive; North Little Rock, AR 72116; or Email: egnavlj@swbell.net.*

## Future NARRC Annual Conferences

### 2014

September 13-17, 2014  
Hyatt Regency Hotel  
(savannah.hyatt.com)  
Savannah, Georgia  
Host: Thomas Carter

### 2015

September (Exact date pending)  
Sheridan, Wyoming  
Host: Cindy Garretson-Weibel

### 2016

Open for Invitation to Host

### 2017

Colorado (Date and location pending)



*The Juliette Gordon Low Ferry: Take the free ferry across the river and explore the other side. Runs every 30 minutes. In the background is the beautiful bridge connecting South Carolina.*

### Website Committee:

Stan Garbacz (NE), Chair  
Steve Ferguson (IA)  
Jeannie Eagan

[www.ruralrehab.org](http://www.ruralrehab.org)

### Rural Rehabilitation REPORTS

Vernon and Jeannie Eagan, Editor  
Additional copies of newsletter are available. Please contact Vernon Eagan, NARRC Secretary/Treasurer, 4408 Dawson Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72116, phone: 501.758.4723; or Email: egnavlj@swbell.net..